

TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL LACROSSE LEAGUE

Rulebook



2016-2017

Version 17.1

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Revision History

Revision	Changes	Date	Author
1.0	Initial version	8/5/04	M. Barry
1.1	Cleanup after the Aug. 7, 2004 Board Meeting	9/3/04	M. Barry
2.0	Update previous rule changes, delete language related to Girl's programs and add Appendix C, D & E for BoD Meeting July 2006...	7/1/06	D. Hamill
3.0	Rule Changes approved at the Annual Team Meeting – October 21, 2006 for implementation in the 2007 season.	10-21-06	D. Hamill, M. Crimmins
3.1	Housekeeping update of Appendix A:: Offside Rule waiver approved at the Annual Team Meeting in 2004 and inadvertently left off THSLL waiver documents until now	2-16-07	D. Hamill
3.2	Rule changes as approved by the majority of the quorum present (in person or by proxy) at the October 20, 2007 Annual Meeting.	10/20/07	Jay Widdig
3.2.1	Rule changes initiated from the floor at the 2007 Annual Meeting	11/13/07	D. Hamill
4.1	Housekeeping update for 2009 season- changes in yellow	9/5/08	N. Powers
	Rule Changes approved at the Annual State Meeting – October 11, 2008 for implementation in the 2009 season.	10/20/08	S. McKay
4.2	Housekeeping update for 2010 season	9/5/09	N. Powers
4.3	Housekeeping update post-State Meeting in yellow Member Team Voting items in red	10/19/09	R. Martin
4.4	Housekeeping update on 8.2 Home School in yellow.	02/03/10	R. Martin
4.5	Housekeeping update on 11.0 Improper Behavior in yellow	3/23/10	N. Powers
4.6	Housekeeping update for 2011 season- changes in yellow, Member Team Voting items in RED	08/28/10	N. Powers
4.7	Approved 2011 THSLL Rulebook	09/25/2010	R. Martin
4.8	Housekeeping Update for 2011 season.	09/27/2010	R. Martin
4.9	Housekeeping Update for 11.0 Improper Behavior	03/01/2011	R. Martin
5.0	Housekeeping update for 2012 season- changes in yellow, Member Team Voting items in red	09/26/2011	N. Powers
5.1	Housekeeping update on 2.0 New Member Teams and 8.7.6 Head Coach's Son Transfer	02/07/2012	R. Martin
5.2	Housekeeping update for 2013 season-changes in yellow, Member Team Voting items in red	06/16/2012	N. Powers
5.3	Housekeeping update for 2014 season- changes in yellow, Member Team Voting items in red	09/01/2013	N. Powers
5.4	Housekeeping update for 2015 season- changes in yellow, Member Team Voting items in red	09/01/2014	N. Powers
5.5	Housekeeping update for 2016 season- changes in yellow, Member Team Voting items in red	9/1/2015	N. Powers
17.1	Housekeeping update for 2017 season- changes in yellow, Member Team Voting items in red	9/1/2016	N.Powers

Introduction

This document determines the rules for the Texas High School Lacrosse League (THSLL) and is under strict control of the THSLL Board of Directors (the “Board”) and ownership of the Texas Scholastic Lacrosse Association, Inc. (TSLA). The Board is comprised of volunteers throughout the State of Texas.

Overview

The Texas High School Lacrosse League (THSLL) (the “League”) is the governing body and membership association for boys’ lacrosse (THSLL Member School Programs) at the high school level in Texas. The high school level is defined as grades nine through twelve.

THSLL Guiding Principles

- Creating a structured environment in which student athletes, coaches, administrators, and parents benefit
- From membership in an organization that facilitates the growth and rewards of playing lacrosse.
- Promoting and protecting the health of participating student athletes by establishing uniform rules of play and cultivating the ideals of good sportsmanship, loyalty, and fair play.
- Working in harmony with the interscholastic governing bodies of THSLL Member School Programs, and other concerned Texas constituencies.
- Establishing and maintaining a process for continuous improvement of the League, by working with THSLL Member School Programs, and other concerned Texas constituencies.
- Building school based boy’s lacrosse Teams in Texas (all players on a Team attend the same source high school, and ideally lacrosse is recognized as a school sport by the athletic director, and if a public high school ,recognized as a school sport by the independent school district.)

ZERO TOLERANCE for discrimination, abuse, and misconduct

The Texas High School Lacrosse League (THSLL) is committed to creating a safe and positive environment for all its THSLL Member School Programs’ participants’ physical, emotional, and social development and ensuring it promotes an environment free from discrimination, abuse, and misconduct. The THSLL has ZERO TOLERANCE for discrimination, abuse, and misconduct including, but not limited to, Sexual Abuse, Physical Abuse, Emotional Abuse, Bullying, Threats, Harassment, and Hazing.

All THSLL Member School Programs participants should familiarize themselves with each and refrain from engaging in any form of discrimination, misconduct, or abuse. In the event that any THSLL Member Program participant observes inappropriate behaviors, suspected physical and/or sexual abuse, or any other type of abuse or misconduct, it is the personal responsibility of each such person to immediately report their observations to a THSLL Board Member as outlined on the THSLL.org website under Site Navigation/Board of Directors, and communicate immediately with a THSLL Board Member via the Contact Us tab.

In addition to reporting within THSLL, such persons should also report suspected THSLL Member School Program participant physical or sexual abuse to appropriate law enforcement authorities as required under applicable Texas law. THSLL Member School Program participants should not attempt to evaluate the credibility or validity of child physical or sexual abuse allegations as a condition for reporting to appropriate law enforcement authorities.

THSLL Member Teams

Member Teams consist of Varsity and Junior Varsity Teams. The League is divided into Districts and Divisions.

DI	DII	DIII	At Large
North	North	North	
Central	Central	Central	
South	South	South	
	San Antonio	San Antonio	

Division I is made up of Member School Programs that are more established lacrosse programs. DI teams have bylaws, procedures, a designated head coach and president, reasonable relations with their host school and/or city / community, and JV and Varsity high school Teams which play a full back to back JV and Varsity schedule. Division II is targeted at development of lacrosse programs. Division II Member School Programs must have bylaws, procedures, a designated head coach and president, reasonable relations with their host school and community, and play a Varsity schedule. Division III is a new team—working towards critical mass of players, coaches, funding, fields, administrative support and school and community support. DIII Teams must have bylaws, procedures, a designated head coach and president, reasonable relations with their host school and/or community. DIII Teams have a maximum of 2 years to transition to DI or DII unless an extension is approved by the Board. At Large Teams are outside of Districts and must have bylaws, procedures, a designated head coach and president, reasonable relations with their host school and/or community. There will be no playoffs or championship games.

Definition of Terms

Team	A group of lacrosse players within a THSLL Member School Program who pay THSLL dues and by their participation in the THSLL, players/parents, coaches, and administrators all agree to accept and abide by the THSLL Rulebook and THSLL Board determinations and decisions as allowed for in the TSLA, Inc Bylaws and THSLL Rulebook. A Team must be one of the types listed in the Team Types section.
Program	A High School or High School Club organization that is the controlling entity of a single Team or group of Teams that pay dues and abides by the rules of THSLL.
Team Types	
Division I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plays full DI Varsity and JV schedules. Pays Varsity dues.
Division II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plays a full DII Varsity schedule. Pays Varsity dues.
Division III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally a new Team with the explicit purpose of moving to DI or DII Varsity within 2 years. Not required to play a full schedule May schedule a game with any THSLL Team. May have seniors on the Team but cannot play the seniors in a JV game. Pays DIII Varsity dues
JV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plays a JV schedule Pays JV Dues
At Large	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new Team outside of District geographic areas. Not required to play a full schedule
Game Types	
These game types are used for general-purpose communications, scheduling, and website convention. All THSLL games will be one of the following types:	
DI District	Division I 'count' League games, within the THSLL District. Games count towards determination of District record.
DII District	Division II 'count' League games, within the THSLL District. Games count towards Division Record and Playoff seedings.
DIII	Games count toward THSLL season record.
JV	All League JV games. Seniors may not play in a JV game. Varsity Teams in Programs without a JV Team may schedule and play a Non District Varsity game with a JV Team.
Non-District	Varsity games with any other THSLL Team. Games count towards the overall Team THSLL season record. Games do NOT count towards the District Playoff record. Non-District games do not include

	tournament games or games with non-THSLL teams. JV Teams may schedule and play Non-District Varsity games with the clear understanding that seniors are allowed to play in Non-District Varsity games.
Out-of-State	An out-of-state game is a THSLL Member Team hosting a “guest” team from outside of Texas or the THSLL Member Team travels out-of-state to play a team(s). These games are played by THSLL rules when played in Texas. The host team is responsible for informing the visiting team of the rules.
District Playoffs	District level Playoffs and Championship games.
State Playoffs	Division I State final twelve, Division II State final four, and Division I and Division II State Championship games. The Division I and II Playoffs are determined as described in section 19.
Notes:	1) Seniors are not allowed to play in JV games. 2) JV games are 10-minute quarters. 3) 8th graders are <u>not</u> allowed to play in any THSLL game as defined in Section 8.5. 4) Scrimmages, away out of state games, and tournament games will not be listed on the District website schedules.

General League Rules

1.0 Member Teams

The THSLL shall be comprised of Member School Programs made up of one or more Member Teams. Member School Programs shall include those organizations paying annual League dues to THSLL, and by their participation in the THSLL, players/parents, coaches and administrators all agree to accept and abide by the THSLL Rulebook and THSLL Board determinations and decisions as allowed for in the TSLA, Inc. Bylaws and THSLL Rulebook. A team must be one of the types listed in the Team Types section. All such Member School Programs, in good standing (having paid League dues for the current THSLL season), will be entitled to vote at any Member School Program meeting.

2.0 New Member Teams

New Member Team applications shall be made through the Commissioner, and shall be voted on at the Annual Meeting, a special meeting, or at a Board meeting. The application shall consist of a letter to the Commissioner detailing the new Member Team's startup plan and intentions. Only Member Schools Programs in the Division or District for which the THSLL Board nomination is being submitted will vote to approve or deny membership to the THSLL Board nominee. New Member Teams will be designated as DIII Teams for 8.0 Eligibility purposes unless the District/Division agrees to allow them to be designated as a DII Team. New Member Teams with only a JV Team will still be designated as a DIII JV Team or DII JV Team for eligibility purposes. New Member Teams must be in compliance with THSLL rules immediately upon acceptance into the THSLL.

3.0 Divisions and Districts

3.1 Divisions

The League shall be divided into Divisions governed by all General Rules outlined herein. Each District, with Board approval, will determine which Member Teams participate in a Division.

3.2 Sub-Divisions

Divisions may be further divided into Sub-Divisions based on the level of competitiveness of Member Teams. Each District, with Board approval, will determine which Member Teams participate in a Sub-Division.

3.3 Divisions

Divisions within the THSLL were created to accommodate developing JV and Varsity Member School Programs, to alleviate scheduling issues, and to create a tier of competition appropriate for such Programs. Each Division by District, with Board approval, shall determine the selection process for movement by Member Teams. When, and if, to add a new Member Team shall be a Division by District decision, and require Board approval. Teams meeting

the minimum suggested criteria should automatically qualify to move to Division I. Minimum suggested criteria for election from DII to DI are as follows:

- 1) Head Varsity Coach
- 2) Regular Practice Schedule
- 3) Field availability for games and practices
- 4) Feeder System-viable middle school program
- 5) High Degree of success within DII
- 6) Established and Active Booster Club or Association

3.4 Districts

Each Division shall be divided into Districts.

3.5 Authority

Each Division and District also has the authority to establish supplemental rules governing their Division and/or District according to the process defined in Section 5 and Section 6.

4.0 Championships

Subject to THSLL Eligibility Rules (Section 8.0), Division I Member Teams with 100% of their players from their Program's single school attendance zone, inclusive of and considering Board approved eligibility waivers, and Division II Member Teams with 50% or more of their players from their Program's single school attendance zone, inclusive of and considering Board approved eligibility waivers, are eligible to participate in State Championships. Any exceptions to this rule must be approved in writing by the Board.

4.1 District Championships

District champions for each Division and District, DI and DII, shall be determined by each of the District Coordinators and the corresponding Division and District coaches (See sections 19.3 and 19.4). District tournament hosts shall follow District Tournament Standards, (See section 19.1). There will be no DIII District Playoffs or District Championships.

4.2 State Championships

4.2.1 DIII State Championships

There will be no DIII State Playoffs or State Championship.

4.2.2 DI State Championship

- The Division I State Championship finalists will be determined through a 12 Team DI Playoff.
- Teams 1-4 will have first round byes.
- Two Super Regional Tournaments will be conducted on a Saturday and Sunday format.
- Super Regional Tournament locations will rotate annually (See section 19.2).
- The State Championship will follow on the next weekend with Semifinals on Saturday and Finals on Sunday.
- State Championship hosts shall follow Championship Tournament Standards, (See section 19.1).

4.2.3 DII Championship

The 16 qualifying teams are seeded based upon a predetermined formula.

- The four (4) regional tournaments will follow a Saturday/Sunday format the weekend before the State Championship.
- Within each region, the #1 seed plays the #4 seed, and the #2 seed plays the #3 seed on Saturday. The winners of those games play each other on Sunday to determine the Regional representative team to play for the State Championship the following weekend.

- The State Championship on the following weekend will have the same structure, with semifinals on Saturday and the championship game on Sunday.

4.3 State Championship Host District Venue

The combined DI and DII State Championship weekend host location shall rotate among the three DI Districts. This rotation of host Districts shall continue unless amended (See section 19.2).

4.3.1 State Championship Event Timing

The Division I and Division II State Championships weekend shall be on or about the second weekend in May, as the Board shall determine. As this event is the highlight of the THSLL season it is imperative that the host Districts begin planning for the State Championship weekend as early as possible to ensure their success.

4.4 Tie Breaker

Seeding for post-season activities will be determined using the following procedures.

- A district game is defined in the schedule with a game type of "District". District teams may play each other more than once, but only games designated as "District" on the schedule will count towards seeding.
- Seeding is calculated by the number of wins against teams in the same division (Division I or II), district (North, South, etc), and conference (East, West, etc).
- Teams will be sorted by wins in descending order.
- A tie will not count towards a win or a loss.
- Forfeited games result in a winning score of 1-0 with the win being given to the team not initiating the forfeit. BoD reserves the right to adjust forfeited game scores or alternative method in extreme cases.
- All district games must be played. Any district games not completed by the deadline will be given a 0-1 loss for both teams. *BoD reserves the right to adjust as needed in extreme cases.*
- The top X teams will be selected in descending order starting with the most wins. The number of teams being seeded may be different between districts. The number of teams selected is decided pre-season during the district breakout sessions.

Tie Breaking Procedures

In every situation possible, head to head results are primary.

- a) The tied teams will be placed in a sub group. The process outlined in steps 1 through 4 in b) below will be utilized for each seeding position. In a Multi-way tie, the process will first determine the highest seed in question and then be repeated again for the next seed, and continue until all tied teams are seeded.
- b) The following steps are used, in order, to break ties for each seeding position:
 1. The highest seed is determined by District wins against Teams within the sub group.
 2. If a tie remains after step 1, teams will be ranked by Head-to-Head competition within the sub group. In the event of a Three-way tie within any sub group; the selection will also be based on a head-to-head comparison.
 3. If all of the Teams have one win over the other Teams in the tie (Team A has defeated team B, team B has defeated team C, and team C has defeated Team A etc.) then the selection shall be based on the difference in scores between those three games:
 - i) The winner will receive a plus for each goal above the goals by the other team, and the loser will receive a minus for each goal below the goals for the other team.

For example – Team A defeated team B by the score of 8 to 5, team A would receive a plus 3 and Team B would receive a minus 3.

- ii) The difference in goals for the remaining two games (B Vs C and C Vs A) would be likewise calculated, and the Team with the largest positive value would be selected.

- 4. Should step 3 not break the three-way tie, there will be a coin flip. All 3 head coaches meet, and coins will be flipped. They flip and odd side out wins. The remaining two go back to step 1.

- c) Once steps 1 through 4 have been completed, there will be one clear winner from the sub group. If two teams remain tied, steps 1 through 4 are used to break the remaining tie. If more than two teams remain, steps 1 through 4 are used to identify one clear winner per iteration until all ties are resolved.

- d) To seed any remaining tied teams, the tiebreaker process will be repeated recreating the sub group with the remaining teams.

For example, there is a three way tie to determine the #3 and #4 slots in a district. Team A, B, and C are all in a three way tie each having one win over the other. We calculate the point differential for the three teams. Team A has -2, Team B has 5, and team C has 4. Since Team B has the highest differential, they are awarded the #3 slot. The three way tie is used to solve for one slot and then the process is repeated for #4. The two remaining teams have the same record but Team A has the head to head tie breaker over Team C. So Team A is awarded the #4 slot.

A three way tie differential will not be used to award more than one slot at a time.

5.0 Member Meetings

5.1 Annual Meetings

Each District will host an Annual Meeting in September. These annual meetings will be general meetings and open for the transaction of any League business as specified in the notice of the meeting.

5.2 Special Meetings

Special Meetings of the Member School Programs may be held at such time and place, by electronic or other means as may be determined by the Commissioner. No business other than that specified in the notice of the meeting will be transacted at any such meeting.

5.3 Notice

Notice of the Annual Meeting or special meetings of Member School Programs shall be provided by the Board of Directors to each Member School Program not less than fifteen (15) nor more than fifty (50) days prior to such meeting. Such notice shall state the purpose for which-the meeting is called and the time and place where it is to be held, and the proposed agenda.

5.4 Quorum

The presence of 51% of the active, annual fee paying Member School Programs, in person or by proxy, will constitute a quorum at all meetings of the Member School Programs related to League play, League preseason and postseason events, and directly related activities of the League, except as otherwise specifically provided by these rules. Voting matters related to these topics will require a 51% majority vote of all Member School Programs, in person or by proxy, for adoption. Each Member School Program gets a single vote on each voting matter.

The presence of 67% of the active, annual fee paying Member School Programs, in person or by proxy, will constitute a quorum at all meetings of the Member School Programs related to League structure and directly related rules, except as otherwise specifically provided by these rules. Voting matters related to these topics will

require a 67% majority vote of all Member School Programs, in person or by proxy, for adoption. Each Member School Program gets a single vote on each voting matter.

5.5 Proxy Representation at Meetings

A Member School Program may designate another Member School Program to vote on their behalf at any meeting. Proxy authorizations must be submitted in writing to the State Administrator prior to the start of any meeting. The proxy authorization (See Appendix B) must be signed by an authorized representative of the Member School Program.

6.0 Rule Making

The General Rules of the League shall define the structure of the League, shall define and govern League play, shall define and govern League preseason and postseason events, and shall define and govern any and all directly related activities of the League.

The General Rules related to League play, League preseason and postseason events, and any and all directly related activities of the League may be revised or amended at any meeting of the Member School Programs in accordance with the requirements of Section 5 with a 51% majority vote of all of the active, annual fee paying THSLL Member School Programs, in person or by proxy. Each Member School Program gets a single vote on each voting matter.

THSLL Member School Programs submitting General Rule change proposals related to League play to be considered at the THSLL State Meeting are required to provide a detailed proposal using the THSLL Rule Change form. Supporting documentation, a signed petition, and/or written acknowledgements demonstrating support by at least 20% of the THSLL Member School Programs, of which 50% must be from outside the submitting THSLL Member School Program's District, must be submitted.

The General Rules related to League structure and directly related rules may be revised or amended at any meeting of the Member School Programs in accordance with the requirements of Section 5 with a 67% super majority vote of all of the active, annual fee paying THSLL Member School Programs, in person or by proxy. Each Member School Program gets a single vote on each voting matter.

THSLL Member School Programs submitting General Rule change proposals related to League structure to be considered at the THSLL State Meeting are required to provide a detailed proposal using the THSLL Rule Change form. Supporting documentation, a signed petition, and/or written acknowledgements demonstrating support by at least 20% of the THSLL Member School Programs, of which 50% must be from outside the submitting THSLL Member School Program's District, must be submitted.

The Board, according to the TSLA, Inc. Bylaws, Section 3.2: General Powers, has final authority on League Rules related to League play and structure. If rule changes are proposed by THSLL Member School Programs and in the majority opinion of the Board are in direct conflict with the TSLA, Inc. Bylaws and THSLL Rulebook, the Board may at its option exercise these powers.

TSLA, Inc. Bylaws, Section 3.2. General Powers. The government of the Corporation, the direction and management of its affairs, and the control of its property, shall be vested in the Board, which may exercise all such powers of the Corporation and do all such lawful acts and things as provided by statute or by the Articles of Incorporation or by these Bylaws, including, without limitation, the promulgation of League and Division rules, the appointment of committees or task forces, and the delegation of such management authority to the Member School Programs or otherwise.

7.0 Dues & Information

Each Member Team must submit annual dues payments to the Treasurer. Failure to pay dues as per the Timetable (See Appendix C) will result in penalties as described in the Penalty Matrix (See Appendix C). The dues amount shall be established at the Annual Meeting of the Member School Programs.

Required Information: Member Teams are required to provide final valid Team Rosters, Emergency Plan, Proof of Insurance, Team Contacts, THSLL Season Schedules, approved Eligibility Waivers if necessary, and coaches U.S. Lacrosse Member numbers in accordance with the Timetable in Appendix C. Penalties will be assessed for non-compliance (See Appendix C).

8.0 Eligibility

Students enrolled in grades 9 through 12, enrolled as a full time day student in high school and have not graduated from high school are eligible to play on a THSLL Member School Program Varsity Team. Students enrolled in grades 9 through 11 are eligible to play on a THSLL Member School Program Junior Varsity Team.

The connection between the school the student athlete attends, and the THSLL Member School Program/Team for which the player is eligible to play is firmly engrained in the THSLL Guiding Principles. The THSLL was founded on the principle that students who attend the same school must play on the same team. This is consistent with the approach used by UIL recognized sports. This concept of school-based teams is repeatedly referenced in THSLL rules, and further clarified in 8.0 eligibility.

It is the responsibility of each THSLL Member School Program to see that student athletes do not compete unless they comply with all THSLL eligibility rules. It is also the responsibility of the student athlete and their family to observe and obey the THSLL rules according to the THSLL Rulebook.

According to THSLL rules, students are eligible to represent their Member School Program in THSLL activities during the THSLL Season (as defined in Appendix C of the THSLL Rulebook) if they:

- have not graduated from high school,
- are full-time, day students in the school, and have been in regular attendance at the school since the 6th class day of the present school year, or have been in regular attendance for 15 or more calendar days before the contest or competition, or are home schooled,
- are in compliance with state law and rules of the Commissioner of Education, (see TEA-UIL Side by Side)
- are enrolled in a four year, normal program of high school courses, and initially enrolled in the 9th grade not more than 4 years ago nor in the 10th grade not more than 3 years ago, or are home schooled,
- are not in violation of any THSLL rule,
- meet the specific eligibility requirements for their THSLL Member School Program,
- are less than 19 years old on September 1 preceding the THSLL Season or have been granted eligibility based on a disability that delayed their education by at least one year,
- live with their parents inside the school district attendance zone their first year of attendance,
- have not moved or changed schools for athletic purposes, and
- were eligible according to the district fifteen-day rule and residence rule prior to district certification

THSLL eligibility rules support the THSLL Member School Program driven philosophy of school-based lacrosse. The THSLL Member School Program a student plays for is determined based on THSLL priority order – school, attendance zone, independent school district, and then adjacent independent school district-and is determined in the sequence below:

FIRST, SECOND, THIRD. To arrive at a student's THSLL Member School Program based on THSLL eligibility, the paragraphs below must be considered from content and context perspectives collectively and in sequence

FIRST: A student who attends a public or private school with a THSLL Member School Program must play for that Program.

A student enrolled in a home school or correspondence school is defined as a private school student for THSLL eligibility purposes, per 8.5, Home School.

A student who attends a private school with no THSLL Member School Program and lives in an attendance zone of a DI THSLL Member School Program can make a one-time decision to play for the "Closest" DI Program, if the DI Program allows it. "Closest" here will be defined as the nearest travel distance using MapQuest, selecting Shortest Distance under routing options, from the student's home or private school to the DI Program. Once he makes the one-time decision he must play for that

Program for the remainder of his high school eligibility. If the DI Program does not allow it then the student can make a one-time decision to play for the “Closest” DII or DIII THSLL Member School Program to where he lives or to the private school he attends, within that independent school district. Once he makes the one-time decision he must play for that Program for the remainder of his high school eligibility, unless there is a change in his eligibility status according to 8.1 to 8.9. If one or more of these changes occurs, his eligibility will be reviewed against 8.0 Eligibility to determine his Member School Program. “Closest” here will be defined as the nearest travel distance using MapQuest, selecting Shortest Distance under routing options, from the student’s home or private school to the DII or DIII THSLL Member School Program (school address), in that independent school district.

A student who attends a private school with no THSLL Member School Program and does not live in an attendance zone of a DI THSLL Member School Program can make a one-time decision to play for the “Closest” DII or DIII THSLL Member School Program to where he lives or to the private school he attends, within that independent school district. Once he makes the one-time decision he must play for that Program for the remainder of his high school eligibility. “Closest” here will be defined as the nearest travel distance using MapQuest, selecting Shortest Distance under routing options, from the student’s home or private school to the DII or DIII THSLL Member School Program (school address), in that independent school district.

SECOND: A student who does not attend a school in and does not live in the attendance zone of a school with a THSLL Member School Program, but lives in an independent school district or attends a school in an independent school district with a THSLL Member School Program, must play for that Program, if it is a DII or DIII THSLL Member School Program. If the independent school district has more than one THSLL Member School Program the student must play for the “Closest” DII or DIII THSLL Member School Program to where he lives or to the school he attends, within that independent school district. Once he makes the one-time decision he must play for that Program for the remainder of his high school eligibility, unless there is a change in his eligibility status according to 8.1 to 8.9. If one or more of these changes occurs, his eligibility will be reviewed against 8.0 Eligibility to determine his Member School Program.

THIRD: A student who lives in or attends a school in an independent school district that does not have any THSLL Member School Programs must play for the “Closest” DII or DIII THSLL Member School Program to where he lives or to the school he attends. “Closest” here will be defined as the nearest travel distance using MapQuest, selecting Shortest Distance under routing options, from the student’s home or school he attends to the DII or DIII THSLL Member School Program (school address). Once he makes the one-time decision he must play for that Program for the remainder of his high school eligibility, unless there is a change in his eligibility status according to 8.1 to 8.9. If one or more of these changes occurs, his eligibility will be reviewed against 8.0 Eligibility to determine his Member School Program.

8.1 Matriculation

If a Division II Member Team matriculates to Division I, any player on their Member School Programs’ valid, approved roster from the prior THSLL season will be allowed to continue with the same Member School Program until they have exhausted their four-year high school eligibility, unless there is a change in his eligibility status according to 8.1 to 8.9. If one or more of these changes occurs, his eligibility will be reviewed against 8.0 Eligibility to determine his Member School Program.

Incoming freshmen to the Division II Member Team are also allowed to continue with the same Member School Program for their four-year high school eligibility, unless there is a change in his eligibility status according to 8.1 to 8.9. If one or more of these changes occurs, his eligibility will be reviewed against 8.0 Eligibility to determine his Member School Program.

If the newly matriculated Division I Member Team does not allow it, the student must play for the “Closest” DII/DIII Member School Program to the school he attends or to where he lives, within that independent school district. If there is not a DII/DIII Member School Program in that independent school district, then the student plays for the “Closest” DII/DIII Member School Program to the school he attends or to where he lives. “Closest” here will be defined as the nearest travel distance using MapQuest, selecting Shortest Distance under routing options, from the student’s home or school he attends to the DII or DIII THSLL Member School Program (school address). Once that

decision is made, the student remains with their Member Team of choice for the remainder of their four-year high school eligibility, unless there is a change in his eligibility status according to 8.1 to 8.9. If one or more of these changes occurs, his eligibility will be reviewed against 8.0 Eligibility to determine his Member School Program.

At the direction of the THSLL Board, a Division II program can be designated as a “Transitional DI Program”, that may require the selected program to compete at the Division I level within their district the following season. Division II programs being considered for matriculation shall complete a “THSLL Matriculation to Division I Plan” to the THSLL Board for approval detailing steps to bring current team roster participation within THSLL eligibility requirements in place. If the program fails to submit a plan, the program will be required to comply with a Board generated plan. Program being considered for matriculation will be evaluated based on the following criteria

- a) Input from DI and DII teams within the District
- b) The DII team satisfies the suggested criteria in paragraph 3.3 for moving from DII to DI.
- c) Current roster level percentages and compliance with THSLL eligibility rules.
- d) Other factors affecting compliance with THSLL eligibility rules.

8.2 New Team Formation

When a new THSLL Member Team is formed, incoming freshmen, and existing players that were on the valid, approved roster for the DII or DIII Member School Program affected by the new Member Team formation are granted a one-time decision to remain with that Member Team or move to the new Member Team at the time of Program formation. Once that decision is made, the student remains with their Member Team of choice for the remainder of their four-year high school eligibility, unless there is a change in his eligibility status according to 8.1 to 8.9. If one or more of these changes occurs, his eligibility will be reviewed against 8.0 Eligibility to determine his Member School Program.

8.3 ISD Action

In the event of independent school district action (reorganization and/or changes to attendance zones/boundaries), and that action affects one or more existing THSLL Member School Programs from an eligibility perspective, the THSLL Member School Program will be protected (current valid, approved roster, incoming freshmen, and current eighth graders), inclusive of and considering Board approved waivers. If during this two THSLL season protection period, additional independent school district action affects one or more of the previously affected THSLL Member School Programs from an eligibility perspective, the Board will consider those circumstances as separate events.

8.4 District Eligibility Committee

The District Coordinators for a District may appoint an eligibility committee to make recommendations to the District Coordinators regarding eligibility questions.

8.5 Home School

A student enrolled in a home school or correspondence school is defined as a private school student for THSLL eligibility purposes, and must provide written notification of their academic status to the THSLL Board of Directors through their District Coordinator. The notification must include dates of enrollment, home address used for determining public school attendance zone, a copy of the THSLL Member School Program roster, and the signature of the parent or legal guardian. If the student was previously on a THSLL Member School Program roster, the notification should include the name of the THSLL Member School Program and dates the student played for the THSLL Member School Program.

8.6 Time of Eligibility

The attendance of a student’s first high school class determines the start of his THSLL eligibility, his THSLL Primary Member School Program Eligibility, and his THSLL primary family residence. Students (players) have a total of four

(4) seasons of THSLL eligibility during high school. The District Coordinator and Commissioner will determine if a player is eligible. A student's Primary Member School Program Eligibility is determined by the THSLL eligibility rules that were in effect at the time of their initial THSLL eligibility determination.

8.7 Switching Program Enrollment

A transfer is a student who moves to another THSLL Member School Program after establishing Primary Eligibility (see Time of Eligibility). Players who switch enrollment between Member School Programs while the THSLL season is underway, must notify their District Coordinator in writing and must wait two (2) weeks after the change of enrollment notification before participating in THSLL sanctioned events and League games.

8.7.1 JV Transfers

A transfer student is eligible for THSLL JV sanctioned events and League games; JV games, and non-THSLL season League games when he complies with all other rule provisions.

8.7.2 Varsity Transfers

A Transfer student is eligible for THSLL Varsity events when the student's family moves their primary residence to a new school district and he complies with all other rule provisions.

8.7.3 Non-Compliance

A Transfer that does not comply with all eligibility provisions will be deemed ineligible to play in THSLL sanctioned events and League games. A Transfer that does not comply with other provisions required for switching Member School Program enrollment will be ineligible for one calendar year of THSLL Varsity events.

8.7.4 Hardship

Waivers regarding Varsity transferring enrollment will be considered for financial hardship, divorce and inability to handle private school curriculum.

8.7.5 Cuts

A Cut/Released player is a student athlete in good standing for the current THSLL Season and is not subject to any current disciplinary actions by his current THSLL Member Team and/or the League as defined in THSLL 11.0 Improper Behavior. The player has been formally released from his THSLL Member Team by a written release signed by Head Coach. A Cut/Released player will be allowed to play for another THSLL Member School Program as per THSLL 8.0 Eligibility guidelines.

8.7.6 Varsity Head Coach's Son Transfer

The son of a THSLL Member School Program Varsity Head Coach may make a one-time decision to play for the THSLL Member School Program his father coaches versus the THSLL Member School Program he is required to play for based on the THSLL 8.0 Eligibility Rule. Once that decision is made, the student athlete must play for that THSLL Member School Program for the remainder of his high school eligibility, unless there is a change in his eligibility status according to 8.1 to 8.9. If one or more of these changes occurs, his eligibility will be reviewed against 8.0 Eligibility to determine his Member School Program.

8.7.7 Eighth Grade Players

Players enrolled in the eighth grade are not eligible to play in THSLL sanctioned events and League games. Players in the eighth grade, subject to the approval of the appropriate District Coordinator and Commissioner, may be a member of a THSLL JV Team or new Member Team for practice purposes only and are subject to all of the same rules determining the appropriate Member School Program for which to play as players enrolled in grades nine (9) through twelve (12). **If a Member Team plays eighth graders in THSLL sanctioned events and League games, the Member Team will be suspended from THSLL for the remainder of the season, and the THSLL future member status will be reviewed.**

8.8 Dual Division Programs

Member School Programs with more than one Member Team may compete in both DI and DII Divisions during a single THSLL season provided that all rules governing Dual-Division Programs have been met. A newly formed Team must apply for membership as required of all new Member Teams by the General League Rules.

Prior to playing League games or as otherwise required by the District Coordinator, the roster for each Member Team must be submitted to the State Administrator. The District Coordinator will make these rosters available to any Coach or designated Member Team Representative. **Once a player plays on the Division I Varsity team in a THSLL game, he may not play on the Division II Varsity team.** Players from a Junior Varsity Team may play-on either the DI or DII Team within the Member School Program. **Once a JV player plays on the Division I Varsity team in a THSLL game, he may not play on the Division II Varsity team.** Players from a DII Varsity Team may move to a DI Team within the Member School Program. However, once he plays in a Division I game, he is no longer eligible to play in a Division II game.

Personnel associated with the Member Teams are responsible for promptly notifying the State Administrator of any additions/changes to the Team rosters as they occur and prior to player activation on a Team within the Program.

Dual Division Programs must have DI, DII and JV rosters with 21 unique individuals on each roster.

Prior to playing League games or as otherwise required by the District Coordinator, the roster for each Member Team must be submitted to the State Administrator. The District Coordinator will make these rosters available to any Coach or designated Member Team Representative.

Personnel associated with the Member Teams are responsible for promptly notifying the State Administrator of any additions/changes to the Team rosters as they occur and prior to player activation on a Team within the Program. Dual Division Programs must have DI, DII and JV rosters with 21 unique individuals on each roster.

8.9 Exceptions to Eligibility Rules

Any exceptions to these eligibility rules must be approved in writing by the Board. A Member School Program or player may appeal the decision of the Board to the Commissioner, by sending a written request for a determination to the Commissioner within thirty days after being notified of the Board's decision through the District Coordinator. Such request shall include all information sent with the original waiver request, and any additional information or statement that the Member School Program or player wishes the Commissioner to consider. The ruling of the Commissioner shall be final on all such eligibility matters.

Exceptions to THSLL Eligibility 8.0 rules require formal written waiver requests generated by a THSLL Member School Program. Waiver requests are considered and must be approved by a majority of the THSLL Board, and determinations/decisions are communicated back to the initiating THSLL Member School Program in writing. THSLL eligibility determinations/decisions are final, and can be appealed to the THSLL Commissioner by the appeal process outlined in the THSLL Rulebook. Decisions by the THSLL Commissioner on appeals are final, unless a majority of the THSLL Board votes to override the decision by the process outlined in the THSLL Rulebook. The THSLL does not govern lacrosse activities other than those associated with the THSLL Season as defined in Appendix C. Consequently, those lacrosse activities cannot be used to justify THSLL eligibility.

THSLL 8.0 Eligibility rules are not subject to interpretation by considering one rule or combinations of rules without regard for the school based lacrosse philosophy of the THSLL and totality of the THSLL rules. A THSLL Board majority decision is required for THSLL Member School Programs and their players/parents on all THSLL eligibility matters, including requests and conflicts.

All player eligibility is subject to annual review according to the timeline and required actions in Appendix C.

The one-time decision rule in the THSLL 8.0 Eligibility rules on remaining eligibility are subject to review and change as per 8.0 Eligibility if a player's eligibility circumstances change according to 8.1 to 8.9.

Legal challenges to the TSLA, Inc and THSLL are proceedings against the THSLL Member School Programs themselves, as the THSLL is a non-profit, voluntary membership association. Any legal fees required to defend the THSLL or TSLA, Inc through litigation, must be passed along to the THSLL Membership School Programs in the form of annual and/or special dues assessments.

9.0 Coaches

All Member Teams must have a designated fulltime coach. All THSLL coaches are required to be active members of U.S. Lacrosse and comply with the THSLL Code of Conduct (See section 9.2). All Member Team (home Team) coaches are to submit game reports including the official game score via the THSLL website within 48 hours of the end of the game.

9.1 Background Check Policy

All THSLL Member School Programs are responsible for their coaches. The Board strongly recommends that each Member School Program run a background check on all coaches.

Suggested Information Links: <http://www.webbackgroundcheck.com/>

9.2 Coaches Code of Conduct

All THSLL Coaches are in positions of leadership that present opportunities to leave lasting impressions on their players; therefore it is in the best interest of THSLL that there be a uniform code of conduct that our coaches are required to follow while participating in and/or attending any THSLL sanctioned event and/or game.

The Role of a Coach

- Coaches are entrusted with a great responsibility every time a contest begins. Our professional and moral responsibility is to provide THSLL participants quality coaching and a sense of safety and fair play at every THSLL contest.
- Sensible, organized competition under proper control provides benefits for THSLL participants. Anything other than that only dramatizes coaches and distracts from the focus and purpose of high school athletics.
- All THSLL coaches must keep in mind at all times that they are representing themselves, their Teams, and their Member School Programs. A coach's words and actions come under close scrutiny from students, parents, faculty and the community, and will reflect positively or negatively on the Member School Program.

Structure

There are two documents that outline the expectations of lacrosse coaches. These include:

- 1) NCAA current rulebook or as further modified by the NCAA;
- 2) Current THSLL Rulebook

NCAA Rulebook

Rule 2-4/Game Personnel/Coaches

One of a team's coaches shall be designated the head coach. The head coach shall be responsible for making all decisions for that team not delegated specifically to the team's game captain. Additionally, it shall be the head coach's responsibility to see that players and substitutes are properly equipped to play.

The head coach shall act in a courteous manner and shall endeavor in every way to achieve the same from his players. The head coach shall be in control of and responsible for all actions of all non-playing members of his squad, and any and all persons officially connected with his institution.

Coaches shall assist the officials in keeping the game under control. It shall be their duty, upon the request of an official, to control effectively actions of spectators not in conformity with standards of proper conduct.

Only the head coach will communicate with the officials. Officials shall address questions from the head coach during half time. A representative from each team may be present while these questions are discussed. Officials should never entertain any questions until a representative of the other team is given the opportunity to be present.

THSLL Rules:

Please refer to section 11.0 Improper Behavior

THSLL Coaching Expectations

- Coaches are expected to win or lose with dignity and humility.
- Coaches must refrain from the use of profanity and insist their players do likewise.
- Coaches must be positive role models in terms of sportsmanship and fair play and set a positive example regarding the use of drugs, tobacco and alcohol.
- Coaches must be fair and unprejudiced with players, considering their individual differences, needs, interests, temperaments and aptitudes.
- Coaches are expected to maintain self-control at all times, accept adverse decisions calmly, and to treat officials professionally.
- Coaches are responsible for the conduct and care of the team from throughout the entire game. This includes the job of making sure that bench areas and dressing rooms are left in good condition and all trash is picked up.

Reportable & Punishable Events

- Any discourteous behavior, use of obscene gestures, or profanity directed towards officials.
- Any discourteous behavior, use of obscene gestures, or profanity directed at the opposing team, coach, or spectators.
- Any coach who is ejected from a contest.
- A coach who receives one or more behavior related unsportsmanlike conduct penalties during one game.
- Coaches are responsible not only for their own actions, but ultimately those of their players. Game officials are expected to inform coaches of their players' actions and the coach must take corrective action. If there are repeated incidences over the course of a game or a series of games, the coach is subject to punishment for not taking corrective action.
- Other types of reportable incidents include, but are not limited to: verbal abuse or other unsportsmanlike behavior by coaches, Member School Program administrators or fans, fans that are removed from facilities for abuse of officials, fights between teams that result in the termination of the contest and physical contact of officials by coaches, Member School Program administrators or fans.
- Reportable incidents can occur during, before, or after the contest.

Reporting Procedures

Every THSLL unsportsmanlike conduct penalty, incident, or ejection report shall be in writing and sent to the District Coordinator by the local SWLOA Assignor/Head Official after the particular game. The District Coordinator will forward the report to the appropriate members of the THSLL Board of Directors or its designee, and the respective offending Program President/Athletic Director.

To report the incident, give brief but concise information. The incident report should be brief and concise including date, time, place and individuals involved. Events leading up to the incidents as well as the actual incident and any follow-up actions are essential. This report should be detailed enough to give someone who was not present a clear picture of the incident.

League Actions

Unsportsmanlike conduct penalties:

1. Receives 1 in one game: will be reported to the Coordinator and be subject to a potential reprimand from THSLL after a report is made to the THSLL Board of Directors or its designee.
2. Receives 2 in one game: The coach and Member School Program President/Athletic Director will meet with the Coordinator. The Coach may miss the next scheduled THSLL game defined as a game on the THSLL schedule at the time the incident occurred, and the game cannot be scheduled after the incident.
3. Any coach that has an accumulation of 4 USCs in THSLL games, will serve a one game suspension for the next scheduled THSLL game as defined as a game on the THSLL schedule at the time of the 4th USC. USCs reset after the game suspension.

A coach who is ejected from a game may be suspended pending an expedient review by the District Coordinator

An ejected individual cannot be in the team's bench area, anywhere on the sideline, and must be supervised by the Member Team program. An ejected individual, who is serving his one game suspension, cannot be in the team's bench area, anywhere on the sideline. or anywhere in the spectator area.

A coach will receive a reprimand, if he does not control his team. Upon a second notification, a coach may receive a game suspension. Lack of control can include, but is not limited to, a fight, a bench-clearing brawl, or repeated occurrences of excessive penalties. The explanation of such events by the following will be considered by the THSLL Board of Directors or its designee:

1. The game officials
2. The coach
3. His Member School Program President/Athletic Director.

The above in no way limits the ability of the THSLL Board of Directors to act in what it perceives to be in the best interests of the League.

Other Responsibilities

NCAA Rulebook Rule 2-5/Game Personnel/Home Coach's Responsibility

It shall be the responsibility of the home coach to see that the playing field is in proper condition for play; that a time-keeper and scorer are on hand with working equipment required; that balls and ball retrievers (or balls on the end line) are provided; and that the assigning authority has received timely, accurate and adequate information so that officials will be on hand for the game.

When a contest is played at a neutral site, one team must be designated as the home team. This shall be done in writing, before the day of the game. The designated team and its coach assume all the responsibilities of the home team as outlined in the rules.

10.0 Insurance

All Member Teams must carry comprehensive liability insurance. Member Teams will not be allowed to participate in THSLL activities without appropriate liability insurance. Each Member Team must provide a Certificate of Insurance to the State Administrator prior to participation in any THSLL activity.

11.0 Improper Behavior

Egregious behavior (abusive, profane, or violent) by THSLL administrators, representatives, coaches, players, or fans that is not in keeping with the League's safety and/or sportsmanship principles and code of conduct may result in such administrator, representative, coach, player or fan being suspended or expelled from the League and/or prohibited from attending League functions. This includes behavior and/or actions not in conformance with the Purpose of the Texas High School Lacrosse League as stipulated in the TSLA, Inc. Bylaws.

Suspension and/or expulsion determinations will result from THSLL Board of Director investigations into alleged improper behavior and/or actions and subsequent follow-up discussions with both THSLL Member School Programs' leadership and SWLOA leadership. This process covers any alleged improper behavior and/or actions deemed by the THSLL Board of Directors not to be in conformance with the purpose and principles of the Texas High School Lacrosse League as stipulated in the current THSLL Rulebook, the TSLA, Inc. Bylaws, and the current NCAA Rulebook.

Repeat occurrences with no noted change of behavior and/or actions can be cause for expulsion. The THSLL Board of Directors will make all suspension and/or expulsion determinations. The parties affected by the determinations will have the right to appeal THSLL Board of Directors' determinations to the THSLL Commissioner, who will have the final say by decision on the appeals.

The NCAA Lacrosse Rulebook, the THSLL Rulebook, and the TSLA, Inc. Bylaws do not have specific "defenseless player" language or rules around it in them. For THSLL safety and sportsmanship reasons, the THSLL has instructed the officials to manage this through the definitions and interpretations in the NCAA rules around egregious and vicious hits and associated penalties as appropriate in individual THSLL game situations.

A player ejected from a game due to Unsportsmanlike Conduct, Targeting the Head/Neck, or Unnecessary Roughness, and/or any combination of these fouls that lead to Fouling Out (five accumulated penalty minutes in a THSLL game for Personal Fouls), will serve a one game suspension. The game suspension served will be the next scheduled game on the THSLL website at the time of the ejection.

A player who plays on both JV and Varsity will serve the THSLL game suspension in the next THSLL Varsity game he is eligible to play in on the schedule. If the ejection occurs in the final game of the THSLL season, or the final THSLL Post Season game, the player will serve the game suspension in the first scheduled THSLL District game the following THSLL season.

An ejected individual cannot be in the team's bench area, anywhere on the sideline, or spectator area, and must be supervised by the THSLL Member School Program's leadership.

12.0 Medical Emergency Plan

Each Member Team will have, and be prepared to implement, an emergency plan as described.

1. The home Team will have an emergency plan on file with THSLL.
2. The home Team must provide immediate, on the spot first aid by a licensed athletic trainer, team physician or health care professional (hereinafter referred to as "Trainer"). THSLL games will not be played without a Trainer on the sidelines.
3. Prior to the start of any contest, the Home Team Site Administrator, shall be identified, in person, to the Officials as part of field preparations.
4. Prior to the start of any contest the Home Team Trainer, shall be identified, in person to the Table personnel. If the home Team fails to provide a Trainer due to extenuating circumstances, the game may be rescheduled.
 - a. If the home Team trainer is delayed, this will result in a 30 second conduct foul, delay of game. If the home Team trainer is not present within 5 minutes of game start, the Home Team will be assessed an additional 30 second conduct foul. If the Trainer is not present within 15 minutes the game may be cancelled and the Home Team is responsible for payment of the officials. If the game is rescheduled, the conduct penalties will carry over to the rescheduled game.
5. The Emergency plan must include procedures for:
 - a. A telephone or other communication device to contact a doctor, ambulance or emergency clinic.
 - b. A designated emergency vehicle. If an ambulance is not available, another suitable vehicle should be available for quick utilization.

- c. Notification of parents of injured player.
 - d. Proper arrangements at a hospital or clinic to insure complete care of the player.
6. The medical emergency plan will be the responsibility of the home Team site administrator and may be requested at any time by a game official. The site administrator will brief the visiting team on any unusual specifics of the emergency plan prior to the beginning of each game.
 7. The Trainer will be considered a neutral participant and will provide medical care to players on both teams.
 8. The Trainer can be paid or be a volunteer.
 9. Pre-game readiness (taping, etc) of players is the responsibility of each team's coach and support staff.
 10. Visiting teams may waive assistance by the home Team trainer if they have their own adequately trained individual, but the team must notify the site administrator and home Team Trainer that they do not want assistance. This notification will waive responsibility for emergency medical care by the home Team Trainer provided, other than normal cooperation and assistance.
 11. Lightning Policy: THSLL recommends Member Teams use lightning detection meters and follow the UIL Policy below:
 - Establish a chain of command that identifies who is to make the call to remove individuals from the field.
 - Name a designated weather watcher (A person who actively looks for the signs of threatening weather and notifies the chain of command if severe weather becomes dangerous).
 - Have a means of monitoring local weather forecasts and warnings.
 - Designate a safe shelter for each venue. See examples below.
 - Use the Flash-to-Bang count to determine when to go to safety. By the time the flash-to-bang count approaches thirty seconds all individuals should be already inside a safe structure. See method of determining Flash-to-Bang count below.
 - Once activities have been suspended, wait at least thirty minutes following the last sound of thunder or lightning flash prior to resuming an activity or returning outdoors.
 - Avoid being the highest point in an open field, in contact with, or proximity to the highest point, as well as being on the open water. Do not take shelter under or near trees, flagpoles, or light poles.
 - Assume that lightning safe position (crouched on the ground weight on the balls of the feet, feet together, head lowered, and ears covered) for individuals who feel their hair stand on end, skin tingle, or hear "crackling" noises. Do not lie flat on the ground.
 - Observe the following basic first aid procedures in managing victims of a lightning strike:
 - Activate local EMS, Lightning victims do not "carry a charge" and are safe to touch, If necessary, move the victim with care to a safer location. Evaluate airway, breathing, and circulation, and begin CPR if necessary. Evaluate and treat for hypothermia, shock, fractures, and/or burns.
 - All individuals have the right to leave an athletic site in order to seek a safe structure if the person feels in danger of impending lightning activity, without fear of repercussions or penalty from anyone.
 12. Definitions used in an Emergency Plan.

Safe Shelter:

A safe location is any substantial, frequently inhabited building. The building should have four solid walls (not a dug out), electrical and telephone wiring, as well as plumbing, all of which aid in grounding a structure.

Flash-to-Bang:

To use the flash-to-bang method, begin counting when sighting a lightning flash. Counting is stopped when the associated bang (thunder) is heard. Divide this count by five to determine the distance to the lightning flash (in miles). For example, a flash-to-bang count of thirty seconds equates to a distance of six miles. Lightning has struck from as far away as 10 miles from the storm center. The THSLL adopts this policy in full and places the responsibility of implementation upon the Site Administrator for the home Team.

Tournaments:

The tournament organizers shall be the party responsible for the implementation of this Medical Safety Policy thereby relieving the home Team of this responsibility. In tournament play, one Trainer may cover up to two adjacent simultaneous games.

Resource Materials:

When developing the Medical Emergency Plan, the THSLL strongly recommends that each team review the US Lacrosse website section titled "Sports Science & Safety", currently found at:

<http://www.lacrosse.org/safety/index.phtml> or http://thsll.org/docs/static/THSLL_Sample_Emergency_Plan.doc

13.0 Referees

During the THSLL season, all games shall be officiated as assigned through the established League scheduling process and as described in agreements with approved League officials. Except for District and Division Championship games so designated by the Board, payment of official's fees shall be the sole responsibility of each Member Team. Failure to pay official's fees may result in forfeiture of League games.

13.1 Rainout Procedures

Game Day cancellations should be made by a phone call and email to THSLL administrator, assignor and coaches. In the event games are cancelled less than two (2) hours prior to game time, Member Teams are responsible for paying officials for such scheduled games. If two (2) games are scheduled, the officials will be paid the higher of the fees. Officials will also be paid for suspended games. If there is a game change within 48 hours of the scheduled game time not due to weather, the home program will be charged \$10 per game changed, collected by SWLOA

13.2 Referee Ratings

Official ratings are obtained during the coach's game report submittal process. These ratings are pivotal to the league working with SWLOA to convey coach's concerns, and are used in assigning officials for post-season.

14.0 Rules of Play

Games will be played in accordance with all NCAA lacrosse rules, with waivers approved at the THSLL Annual Meeting of Member Teams.

14.1 Non THSLL-Member Play

During the THSLL season through and including the date(s) of the State Championships, no THSLL Member Team shall play, including scrimmages, a non-THSLL team without the prior written consent of the THSLL Board. Violators of this rule may be subject to sanctions, to include, but not limited to, game forfeiture, ineligibility for Playoffs and State Championships, and coach and/or Team probation or suspension.

15.0 Mandatory Games / Game Play

Each District will determine the requirement for mandatory games.

15.1 Games Played

At the beginning of every THSLL season, each District and Division (i.e. North DII) along with their District Division Coordinator; decides the number of and format for their required season games. These games must be designated as their appropriate District games types (ex DII District) at the time they are scheduled. These will be considered the "count" games towards the District standings. Each Team is required to play the same number of District ("count") games.

15.2 Allowable Games

During the THSLL season, Member Teams will schedule all games within Texas according to the game types described elsewhere in this document. They will be scheduled through the approved League scheduling process and in conjunction with agreements between the League and approved officials. Opponents may only be other THSLL Member Teams or out-of-state “guest” teams otherwise considered sanctioned by the League’s representative through the approved scheduling process. All allowable games count in a Member School Program’s overall record.

Scrimmages of all forms are not ‘allowed games’ and may not be reported as such to any entity. Any scrimmage played during the THSLL season will be considered a situational practice and does not result in a final score regardless of the presence of officials.

15.3 Team Sideline Policy

The field and all limit lines should be marked in accordance with the NCAA rulebook. All spectators shall be on the opposite side of the field from the team benches. The team box should contain a maximum of 4 coaches in the coaching box in front of the players. 1 equipment manager and 1 team trainer may be on the sidelines behind the players. Only players in uniform may be on the sidelines, non-participating players must wear game jerseys. 1 equipment manager and 1 team trainer may be on the team side, but not in the team box.

1 equipment manager and 1 team trainer may be on the team side, but not in the team box.

The score table shall not contain more than 5 people, including 3 from the home Team and 2 from the visitors’ team. The home Team is the official scorekeeper, game timer, and penalty timer at the score table. The visiting team has a scorekeeper and assistant at the score table. The home Team site administrator has full access to the facility and should have communication with the score table.

It is the responsibility of the home Team and home Team site administrator to manage this policy. The home Team and away Team site administrators must check in with the score table and officials and wear the site administrator identifying badges.

The delayed start of a game due to the field not being ready for play, at the contracted starting time or failure of the home Team Site Administrator to introduce himself/herself to the Officials, will subject the home Team to a technical foul (6-6q) with the in-home serving 30 seconds and the ball awarded to the visitor to start the game.

15.4 Use of Technology**15.4.1 Coach to Player Communication**

Teams and coaches may not use any form of electronic communications with players in accordance with US Lacrosse Rule Section 7-A.

15.4.2 Coach to Press box Coach Communication

Some field locations contain football headsets for communication with the press-box. Coaches may use EXISTING communication headsets if provided by the facility to communicate with coaches in the press box provided both teams cannot hear each other. This is only allowed if the same communication method is available to both the home and away teams. If the offer is presented to the away team, the away team can choose to use the communication or not. As long as the offer has been made to the away team, the home team shall be allowed to use the communication regardless if the away team elected to use the communication.

15.4.3 Coach to Coach/Fan/Scout Communication

Coaches may communicate with additional team personnel (not players) present in the stands or press box via non-facility provided communication methods. (Cell phone, 2-way radio, etc). Because the

communication device is not part of the facility, there is no requirement to offer the technology to the other team.

15.4.4 Remote Control Flying Camera

Use of remote control flying cameras (ie drone, helicopter, etc) is prohibited during THSLL events.

16.0 Player Honors

Each District awards All-State ,All-District Honors and Honorable Mention within Divisions I and II.

Each group includes seventeen (17), All State - comprised of: four (4) attackmen, five (5) midfielders, one (1) face-off, one (1) longstick, four (4) defensemen, and two (2) All State goaltenders .

(16) All District comprised of : four (4) attackmen, five (5) midfielders, one (1) face-off, one (1) longstick, four (4) defensemen, and (1) goaltender

(16) Honorable Mention comprised of : four (4) attackmen, five (5) midfielders, one (1) face-off, one (1) longstick, four (4) defensemen, and (1) goaltender.

Players must receive All State to be eligible for All American.

16.1 THSLL Awards

16.1.1 Coach of the Year and Assistant Coach of the Year

These awards honor those coaches who exemplify the ideals of the game within the THSLL. These awards are intended to recognize the individuals overall coaching performance and contribution, not just coaching wins — although they may be considered.

Each District (Central, North, San Antonio and South) shall select an honoree during their respective District THSLL Awards Selection Meeting at the conclusion of the THSLL season. These honorees will automatically be candidates for the Texas Area US Lacrosse Coach of the Year & Assistant Coach of the Year to be voted on by the Texas Area All-American Selection Committee.

1. This award is only available to Varsity Head Coaches and Varsity Assistant Coaches;
2. The winner must be a member in good standing with US Lacrosse
3. Nominees must demonstrate outstanding sportsmanship on and off the field at all times
4. Nominees must demonstrate excellent rapport with officials, other coaches and his own players at all times; 5. Nominee did the most with what he had
5. Co-Varsity coaches from an Area will not be recognized

16.1.2 Person of the Year

Each District (Central, North, San Antonio and South) shall select a THSLL District Person of the Year award honoree whose individual whose dedication, commitment, and support of lacrosse and its ideals extends beyond his/her specific Member Team. These honorees will automatically be candidates for the Texas Area US Lacrosse Man of the Year (though it could be a woman) to be voted on by the THSLL Executive Committee. Nominees shall meet the following criteria:

1. Nominees can be active coaches, but overall contribution to lacrosse beyond his/her Program is the primary criteria for selection.
2. Nominations should include a biographical sketch, including years of lacrosse involvement and his/her contributions to the game.

16.1.3 Commissioner's Award

These awards honor-THSLL players who exemplify the ideals of sportsmanship, competition and character both on and off the field, and shall be selected by the THSLL Commissioner. Any senior player in the THSLL is eligible. These awards are strictly a THSLL awards and are not affiliated with US Lacrosse.

The THSLL Drew Webb and Earl Bill Commissioner Awards are given at the discretion of the Commissioner and are not necessarily annual awards.

16.1.4 Voting Process

- Nominations for each of the District level awards are submitted to the League Administrator per the timeline
- League Administrator submits to each District Coordinator the nominations for their District
- Nominations are presented to the District Coordinators for each Division per the timeline
- The District Coordinators meet and select the awardees
- Any tie-breaker necessary within a District would be broken by the District Coordinator

16.1.5 Voting Process

The THSLL League Administrator will immediately notify the THSLL Board of the awardees and publish their names to the League website.

16.2 US Lacrosse Awards

US Lacrosse awards are voted on by the All American Selection Committee. Please refer to US Lacrosse for a complete set of guidelines. <http://www.uslacrosse.org/players/high-school/boys-high-school-awards>.

The All American Selection Committee will follow US Lacrosse guidelines, and will also set criteria that the committee adheres to when processing selections.

16.2.1 All-Americans

Each year, US Lacrosse informs the THSLL of the number of High School All-Americans it may award. US Lacrosse All-Americans are the best players from their area. They exhibit superior skills and techniques, possess exceptional game sense and knowledge, and embody good sportsmanship.

Selection Committee

1. An All-American Selection Committee is created consisting of 10 voting coaches, 2 from each Division I District, and 1 from each Division II District
2. Each Division's pool of coaches within each District will select its coaches to be on the Selection Committee;
3. It is recommended that coaches that serve on the Committee be very experienced, possibly having coached summer all star teams from Texas and inter-District and inter-Divisional games;
4. Members of the Selection Committee will be voted to serve terms by their peer District coaches in each Division I or II;
5. Terms are two years and one year to ensure Committee continuity;
6. A member may not serve more than two consecutive terms, but may serve more than once;
7. Terms run from October 1st and expire on September 30th;
8. Terms are to be staggered, and initial terms determined by lot;
9. The Texas Area Chair for US Lacrosse will serve two-year terms, with a limit of two consecutive terms, but may serve more than once. The Texas Area Chair will be selected by the Committee.

Voting process

1. Voting is during a conference call consisting of the 11 participants;

2. Coaches with nominated players will present the nominations to the Committee during the conference call; `
3. Coaches with nominated players may be on the Committee.
4. The voting coaches count for one vote each
5. The US Lacrosse Area Chair only votes in the case that a tie needs to be broken.

Awards announcement

1. The US Lacrosse Area Chair will immediately publish the honorees to the THSLL Board
2. Honorees will be announced at the THSLL Championship.
3. The THSLL list of All-Americans will be sent to US Lacrosse by the Texas Area Chair for US Lacrosse.

16.2.2 Academic All-Americans

US Lacrosse awards are voted on by the All American Selection Committee. Please refer to US Lacrosse for a complete set of guidelines.

16.2.3 Coach of the Year and Assistant Coach of the Year

These awards honor those coaches who exemplify the ideals of the game. This award is intended to recognize the individual's overall coaching performance and contribution, not just coaching wins although they may be considered. The list of nominees comes from the THSLL District Coach of the Year and Assistant Coach of the Year awardees.

16.2.4 Person of the Year

Nominees can be active coaches, but overall contribution to lacrosse beyond his/her Program is the primary criteria for selection; Nominations should include a biographical sketch, including years of lacrosse involvement and his/her contributions to the game. Nominees may be male or female. The list of nominees comes from the THSLL District Person of The Year awardees.

17.0 Team Site Administrator Role

Each Member Team shall have at least one person designated as a Site Administrator (for both home and away games). Site Administrators must wear the THSLL Site Administrator badge at home and away games and introduce themselves to the other Team's site administrator.

The home Team Site Administrator shall be the governing Site Administrator. The function of this role is to address any crowd control, security and/or medical issues. The Site Administrator should be familiar with and know how to implement any emergency plan or procedures that may be required or set by their school or Member School Program. This person is also the contact for any last minute or emergency issues concerning the game itself. This person should carry a mobile phone at the field so that they can make or receive any emergency contacts.

The Home Team Site Administrator and Away Team Site Administrator must greet the referees as they arrive to the field as discuss any issues, and check in with the table 10 minutes prior to game. The Home Site Administrator or designated security is responsible for escorting officials off the field at the end of the game.

18.0 THSLL Recognized Tournaments

THSLL recognizes tournaments that meet certain minimum requirements. Only those tournaments recognized by THSLL will be listed on the League website.

THSLL will "recognize" a tournament that abides by the following rules and meets certain minimum requirements. The THSLL Board of Directors will "recognize" a tournament when the host agrees to make a best effort to abide by this THSLL standard.

Benefits of Hosting Member School

The tournament will be marketed by THSLL: it will be placed on the THSLL.org website as a THSLL “recognized” tournament and THSLL will email particulars of the tournament to all Member School Programs.

1. Participating Member School Programs will know that the THSLL “recognized” tournament meets certain minimum standards.
2. If a Member School Program is considering participating in two tournaments during the same weekend, the Member School Program should give careful consideration to whether one or both are THSLL “recognized”).

Requirements of Hosting Member School or Organization to have their tournament “recognized” by THSLL

1. Best effort to abide by THSLL District/Tournament Standard.
2. Other than rules around penalties (1.5 times running, quarter / half game times, and rules around seeding / ranking / tournament championship) the games will be governed in accordance with THSLL rules (i.e. NCAA rules with THSLL waivers)
3. Distribution of tournament rules at time of registration
4. Minimum two 20 minute running halves
5. Minimum 3 games per team
6. Preference is to separate DI, DII/DIII and JV
7. At a minimum separate Varsity and JV
8. Registration at least 60 days prior to event
 - a. Distribution of “game brackets” at least 1 week prior to event
 - b. Publish cancellation policy for a team at the time of registration
 - c. Publish cancellation policy for weather events at the time of registration
 - d. Optional
 - e. Site Map
 - f. Lists / locations of restaurants / places of interest

Issues to consider when setting up your tournament:

1. The date of tournament, checking the regional calendar for competing events.
2. Event insurance as it relates to refunds in event cancellation.
3. Contact local emergency services to flag date and location (directions) of/to the event.

19.0 Post-Season Games

19.1 THSLL Championship Tournament Standards

Host will be responsible for the organization of the Event, assisted by the THSLL, and in accordance with the policies and standards of the THSLL as outlined in the THSLL Rulebook, the THSLL Championship Tournament Standard more specifically, will be responsible for:

1. Conducting the Event in conformance with the THSLL Rulebook, and THSLL’s applicable policies and standards outlined in the THSLL Championship Tournament Standards.
2. Strictly enforcing the THSLL’s Code of Conduct.
3. Providing the venue for the Event. The venue will meet the THSLL requirements as outlined in the THSLL Championship Tournament Standards. In the event Host is unable to provide the for the two-day weekend Event, Host will arrange for an alternative venue at their sole expense that meets the Event requirements.
4. With prior approval of the THSLL, preparing and distributing all promotional material for the Event. All promotional material will give proper acknowledgement to the THSLL.
5. Complying with all the THSLL sponsorship agreements in effect and provided to Host, and allowing the THSLL sponsors and official suppliers to participate on a non-exclusive basis in promotion, sales, or

- advertising according to their agreements relating to the Event. The terms of such participation and revenue sharing will be as determined in consultation with the THSLL 30-days prior to the Event.
6. Notification to the THSLL of additional Host driven promotion, sales, or advertising planned for the Event by Host and/or local sponsors or other businesses not affiliated with the THSLL, and who do not present major conflicts with existing THSLL sponsorships.
7. Complying with any additional requirements that the THSLL may be reasonably required to impose to fulfill its governance responsibilities of providing a safe environment for competitors, coaches, officials, and fans.
8. Host will derive the benefit of profits earned through the Event's gate receipts, concessions (only if shared with Host by the Independent School District), sales, and local sponsors, subject to the THSLL Championship Tournament Standards and will be responsible for any financial losses incurred by Host in hosting the Event.
 - i. 10% of Event's gate receipts returned to the THSLL.
 - ii. Complimentary passes for THSLL BoD and visiting voting/presenting coaches, and THSLL BoD field passes.
9. Championship Tournament Liability Insurance policy with the THSLL named as 'Additional Insured'
10. Medical Emergency Plan in place and on file with the THSLL
11. Host site shall employ Licensed Trainer for all games and AED on site for all games
12. Dressing room facilities for teams (on a best efforts basis) and SWLOA Officials (separate, controlled access)
13. Water and ice at the Team benches
14. Field marked to current NCAA standards
15. "Official Score Table" setup to NCAA standard with shade tent. Host is responsible for physical site – table, chairs, awning, timers, game and end line balls, and horns. Home Team is responsible for providing "Official Scorebook." Host and THSLL will agree on (3) three individuals that Host will arrange for and schedule to serve as "Official scorer, spotter, and timer." The Home and Visiting Teams will be allowed (2) two representatives each to sit at the ends of the "Official Score Table" while the "Official scorer, spotter, and timer" will sit in between them at the "Official Score Table."
16. Tent area and seating behind scorers' table for trainer, officials, and League officials
17. Communications link between score table and scoreboard operator
18. PA system and announcer available for goal announcements and presentation of the awards on the field, directly after each championship game
19. Practice/warm-up facilities with goals on a best efforts basis, Lights
20. Ample parking, Ample seating
21. Controlled access and Limited Field Access
 - a) Only approved Team sideline personnel in compliance with the THSLL rules and policies
 - b) No more than two Team photographer and/or videographer, designated by each Club/A.D., and identified to the Host, one-week in advance to receive proper credentials
 - c) Host has the opportunity to employ an event photographer for all games and presentation ceremonies.
27. All-weather field or a THSLL Board-approved contingency plan
28. Secure hotel accommodations for Teams and SWLOA Officials
29. Public restrooms and concessions
30. Adequate tournament staff (with identification)
31. Signage (if required for way-finding) , Security and traffic control (if required)
32. Host representatives to meet and greet Teams
33. Provide THSLL with FAQ, directions, maps and any other information to be posted on the THSLL website.
36. Program publication information deadlines must be coordinated with the THSLL calendar
 - League history and feature story (as appropriate) – will be submitted to Host by 12 noon on Tuesday of the Event week
 - League stats and awards (past) –will be submitted to Host by 12N on Tuesday of the Event week

- District wrap-ups (text provided by District Coordinators) – will be submitted to Host by 12N on the Tuesday of the Event week
 - Team Pictures with roster (numbers) and coach statement (provided by Teams/Coordinators) – will be submitted to Host by 12N on the Tuesday of the Event week
 - Post-season awards – All-District and All-State (provided by Teams/Coordinators) to be submitted to Host by Tuesday of the Event week
 - Off-season recap (recruiting, post season play, League changes etc.) – to be submitted to Host by 12N on Tuesday of the Event week
37. Awards will be paid for and coordinated by THSLL.
 38. Awards to be presented by THSLL Commissioner or his proxy at Championships
 39. Neither Host nor THSLL are responsible for awards for non-THSLL games played during the weekend
 40. Championships Runners-up , Champions, MVPs: Offensive, Defensive, and Overall

THSLL Will Provide

1. Appointing representative to serve as liaison with Host (the Host DI Coordinator) and to ensure compliance with the policies and standards of the THSLL as per the THSLL Rulebook and THSLL Championship Tournament Standards.
2. Coordinating the seeding of Teams for the Event and providing Host with the entries prior to the Event.
3. Through the SWLOA Local Assignor, designating a sufficient number of officials to serve as officials for the Event, and providing an SWLOA Chief Official for the Event.
4. Advising Host of any THSLL sponsorship agreements that will impact the Event, and receiving notification by Host of the participation in the Event by local sponsors and businesses.
5. Providing information for Event Program purposes by 12N on the Tuesday of the Event week.
6. Providing appropriate THSLL and sponsors' signage and banners for display at the Event, and mutually agreeing to how they shall be displayed.
7. The THSLL will participate in the benefit of revenue earned by the Event as per the THSLL Championship Tournament Standards (Section 19.1) and will not be responsible for any financial losses incurred, by Host In hosting the Event.

19.2 State Championship Rotation

The State Championship will rotate between the three districts with DI teams with the following schedule.

2017	South
2018	Central
2019	North

19.3 Division I Twelve Team Playoff Structure

19.3.1 Basic Structure

1. District Champions and seedings are determined by each District, either by District Playoffs or by the best record at the conclusion of THSLL season play (tiebreaker if necessary). Method of determining District Champion must be decided before the THSLL Annual Meeting.
2. Teams A1 and B1 will be the top seed and home Team in the super regional tournaments.

19.3.2 Selection Process

1. District Champions will control top 4 seeds.
2. Teams 4-12 are seeded based upon the standings at the end of THSLL season play, and a predetermined serpentine pairing formula as noted below. Of the 12 Teams competing, there will be 4 Teams from each District.

19.3.3 Format

1. Teams 1-4 will get 1st round byes.
2. Two Super Regional Tournaments with Saturday and Sunday format.
3. A predetermined format establishing game locations (North, South or Central Districts) rotates annually for the Super Regional games .
4. State Championship the following weekend with Semifinals on Saturday and Finals on Sunday.
5. Super Regional Game Times: Saturday 2 pm lower Tournament seeds and 4 pm higher Tournament seeds. Sunday 1pm Tournament lower seeds, 3 pm Tournament higher seeds.
6. Championship Game Times: Saturday 2 pm lower Tournament seeds and 4 pm higher Tournament seeds. Sunday 1pm Tournament lower seeds, 3 pm Tournament higher seeds.

Top DI seed has choice of playing the 2pm or 4pm game on Saturday.

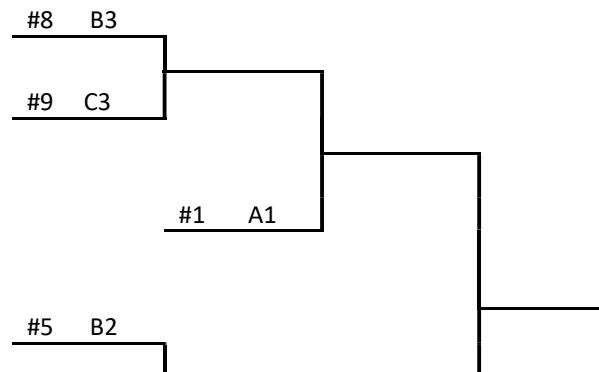
19.3.4 Pre-Determined Division I Matchups

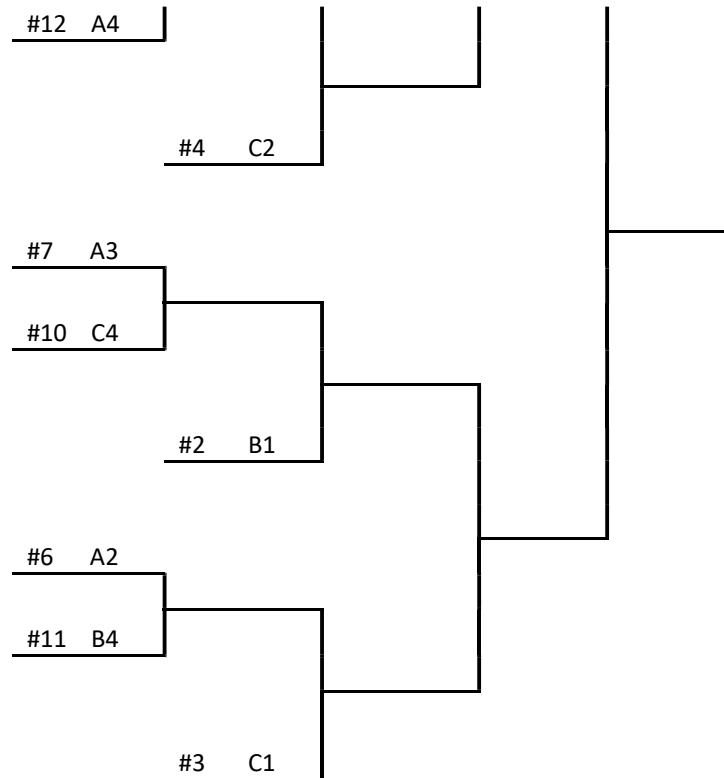
District		2017	2018	2019
A		Central	North	South
B		North	South	Central
C		South	Central	North
Seed	Team	2017	2018	2019
1	A1	Central	North	South
2	B1	North	South	Central
3	C1	South	Central	North
4	C2	South	Central	North
5	B2	North	South	Central
6	A2	Central	North	South
7	A3	Central	North	South
8	B3	North	South	Central
9	C3	South	Central	North
10	C4	South	Central	North
11	B4	North	South	Central
12	A4	Central	North	South

19.3.1 Division I Pre-Determined Brackets

A1 district will host the top super-regional

B1 district will host the bottom super-regional





19.4 Division II Sixteen Team Playoff Structure

19.4.1 Basic Structure

Each of the four (4) DII Districts will have teams qualifying for the regional tournaments based on allocation system. The slots will be set January 1st based on the number of Division II Varsity Member Teams in good standing. Teams will follow pre-determined travel arrangements. The THSLL Board places Wildcards.

1. District seedings are determined by each District following the conclusion of the regular season. The method of determining seedings must be decided within each district before the beginning of the regular season.
2. The top seed within each district will be the host team for their respective regional tournament and will be responsible for organizing their regional tournament.

19.4.2 Format

1. The 16 qualifying teams are seeded based upon a predetermined formula .
2. The four (4) regional tournaments will follow a Saturday/Sunday format the weekend before the State Championship.
3. Within each region, the #1 slot plays the #4 slot, and the #2 slot plays the #3 slot on Saturday. The winners of those games play each other on Sunday to determine the Regional representative team to play for the State Championship the following weekend.
4. The State Championship on the following weekend will have the same structure, with semifinals on Saturday and the championship game on Sunday.
5. Game times: Saturday- 10 am Tournament Lower Seeds, 12 pm Tournament Higher Seeds

19.4.3 2017 Division II Allocations

TBD on 1/1/2017

19.4.4 Division II Allocated Brackets

TBD on 1/1/2017

20.0 Sportsmanship

Sportsmanship rule for all teams participating in a regular season DII or DIII game. At any time during the game there is a 15 goal differential there will be a mandatory running clock for the remainder of the game. Traditional penalty time will apply and be kept with stop/starts. The clock will be stopped for official time outs or team time outs.

After the running clock has started, at any time during the remainder of the game the score differential falls below 15 goals, the running clock will still be in effect.

This rule applies to all DII or DIII district or non-district regular season games only. Post-season games and games with DI teams are exempt from this rule.

21.0 Enforcement of THSLL Rules

The Commissioner shall have authority to assess any penalties for violation of these rules. Such penalties may be assessed against a Member School Program, Member Team, an individual player or all three, and may include but shall not be limited to expulsion, suspension, probation and/or forfeiture of games, and may also include the performance of remedial actions such as letters of apology or attendance at training events in lieu of such action by the Commissioner. A Member School Program, Member Team, or player, may appeal the penalty to the Board by written submission, to be considered by the Board at its next regular meeting or at any special meeting called for that purpose by the Commissioner. Upon any such appeal, the Board may modify or overturn the penalty or remedy instituted by the Commissioner by a majority vote of all members of the THSLL Board.

22.0 THSLL Rules Governance process

As stated in 21.0 Enforcement: The Commissioner shall have authority to assess any penalties for violation of the THSLL rules. Such penalties may be assessed against a Member School Program, Member Team, an individual player(s) or all three, hereinafter referred to as "THSLL Participants", and may include but shall not be limited to expulsion, suspension, probation and/or forfeiture of games, and may also include the performance of remedial actions such as letters of apology or attendance at training events in lieu of such action by the Commissioner. A THSLL Participant may appeal the penalty to the THSLL Board by written submission, within 30 days of the Commissioner's decision, to be considered by the THSLL Board at its next regular meeting or at any special meeting called for that purpose by the Commissioner. Upon any such appeal, the THSLL Board may modify or overturn the penalty or remedy instituted by the Commissioner by a majority vote of the THSLL Board.

It is the intention of the THSLL Board to act expeditiously, fairly, and consistently on all violations of THSLL rules through a thorough and consistent governance process with clearly articulated roles and expectations. This governance process, the THSLL Rules Enforcement Governance Process, begins with clear ownership of the fact-finding and investigation into suspected rules violations. The guiding principles for THSLL are the presumption of innocence, that being THSLL Participants are innocent until proven guilty, and taking into consideration what is in the best interests of the THSLL high school lacrosse player(s) involved when making decisions about their health, welfare, and general well-being. These guiding principles are relevant and applicable to this governance process.

The Coordinator for the Division and District in which the suspected rules violation(s) occurred is the owner of the governance process, and will be accountable to the Commissioner and the THSLL Board for all actions towards resolution of the rules violation including the pro-active investigation, proposed penalties, and communication with the involved THSLL Participants before, during, and after the governance process. In the event of a conflict of interest, the Commissioner will ask the Coordinator to recuse him or herself, and will appoint another Coordinator to act as the governance process owner. The THSLL Coordinator, the THSLL Board, and the Commissioner are all THSLL Participants in the governance process.

The Coordinator assigned to the matter will be responsible for all communications and interaction with all involved THSLL Participants relating to the governance process. The suspected rules violation or complaint must be submitted in writing so as to establish a written record, and point of origin, of the complaint or suspected rules violation, and to initiate the governance

process. This process step will help to minimize “he said, she said” or gossip and minimize the chance of possible unfounded accusations receiving serious consideration and from having major time and emotional impacts on any and/or all THSLL participants. If the THSLL Board is initiating the governance process, a written record of that fact will be established including the reason(s) for taking such action.

From that point, the assigned Coordinator will determine who is to be contacted, when, and how, and what the course of action is regarding the suspected rules violation. The Coordinator will determine who the involved THSLL Participants should be based on the issue, the perceived severity of the issue, and the circumstances surrounding it as understood at the time the THSLL Board decides to initiate the governance process. If the Coordinator believes the matter is politically sensitive he or she may seek counsel from the THSLL Board on the investigation and the resulting governance process. If the Coordinator determines there is a clear rules violation and no additional investigation or follow up is required the Coordinator may take action as defined in the THSLL Rulebook without initiating the MNDA process.

From the beginning and throughout the governance process, including any assessment of any penalties and beyond, confidentiality is a foundation principle that cannot be compromised by any THSLL Participant involved in the governance process. All THSLL Participants are expected to maintain confidentiality and allow the process to follow its course. An individual when contacted by the Coordinator regarding a suspected rules violation immediately becomes a possible THSLL Participant in the governance process. As a result, the THSLL Participant must agree to sign and be bound by a mutual non-disclosure agreement (MNDA) relating to the matter, if there are to be further discussions with that individual about the matter. If the individual refuses to sign the MNDA, the Coordinator will immediately cease discussions with this individual regarding the matter.

Signing the MNDA means that the individual agrees to become a THSLL Participant in the governance process and is then responsible for keeping the matter confidential and not talking to anyone about it unless instructed to do so in writing by the Coordinator and/or the THSLL Board. This protects the THSLL Participants in the event the matter was to escalate to litigation by any THSLL Participant.

Any breach in confidentiality by any THSLL Participant will be dealt with by the THSLL Board swiftly and may include penalties for such actions.

The Coordinator will be the investigator in the governance process and will decide who is to be contacted and when based on the severity and scope of the suspected rules violation, and the extent of the investigation that will occur. The Coordinator will communicate the governance process, the investigation plan, and the timeline to the involved THSLL Participants in writing, as appropriate, and make it clear that no one other than the Coordinator will be investigating the matter and/or making contact with individuals to determine if any inappropriate behavior has occurred. The written agreement provided by the Coordinator to the THSLL Participants will become a part of the MNDA. Any THSLL Participant acting in an investigative capacity outside of the Coordinator and/or discussing the investigation and/or governance process with other THSLL Participants or other individuals outside of the governance process will be subject to penalties for such actions.

The Coordinator will have two weeks to complete the fact-finding and investigation and to report the findings to the THSLL Board along with a recommendation for resolution, including any penalties and/or warnings. In the event circumstances call for an extended investigation, the Coordinator will communicate that in writing to the THSLL Board and to the involved THSLL Participants. In the event the findings do not support any further action, the Coordinator will inform the involved THSLL Participants and the investigation will be closed.

During the governance process it is expected that the Coordinator will interact with Member School Programs, Member Teams, and possibly players and parents, to determine the facts, to investigate the situation, and to come to a conclusion as to what may or may not have occurred. The THSLL Board is sensitive to the fact THSLL Participants may have mixed emotions about what is going on and that during these kinds of matters emotions are high. All governance process contact will be done using the MDNA and the THSLL Board and Coordinator in charge will do their best to minimize the inconvenience and emotions throughout the governance process, however, this is a shared responsibility as everyone involved has a role in managing expectations and emotions in a difficult process.

Once the initial findings are determined, the Coordinator will communicate with the THSLL Board and with the involved THSLL Participants in writing regarding his or her findings. If there is a need for clarification or further investigation based on that initial fact-finding and communication, the Coordinator will determine the appropriate course of action, and establish a plan and timeline.

Once the Coordinator has made a determination that sufficient information is available to make a recommendation to the THSLL Board on the matter, he or she will do so in writing followed by a presentation at a THSLL Board meeting or special meeting. The THSLL Board may ask for additional due diligence or may decide there is enough information to make a ruling. If the ruling is no action, that communication will be passed along to the involved THSLL Participants in writing, the ruling will become a part of the THSLL Board meeting minutes, and the matter will be closed. If the ruling is some form of penalty for a Member School Program, Member School Team, or individual player(s), the THSLL Board will charge the Coordinator with communicating that to the involved THSLL Participants in writing, the ruling will become part of the THSLL Board meeting minutes, and the matter will be closed. If the matter is of such a nature that it should be held in confidence between the THSLL Participants, that will be noted in the THSLL Board meeting minutes, will be communicated to the involved THSLL Participants in writing, will become part of the THSLL Board meeting minutes, and the matter will be closed.

The THSLL Board will determine the appropriate action, and the THSLL Commissioner will carry out those actions with the involved THSLL Participants. In the event the involved THSLL Participants wish to appeal the decision of the THSLL Commissioner, they may do so through the process outlined in the first paragraph of this section. It should be noted that the entire governance process is covered by the MNDA, which the THSLL Participants agree to by participating in the THSLL and signing the MNDA.

The Commissioner and the THSLL Board have as their number one priority and goal in this governance process to protect the health, welfare, and general well-being of the involved THSLL high school player(s) through the presumption of innocence, and fair play. Beyond that the Commissioner and THSLL Board will endeavor to treat everyone involved with respect and to minimize the inconvenience associated with the governance process. We would ask that all the involved THSLL Participants endeavor to do the same. IF everyone involved, the THSLL Participants, in the governance process agree in advance to do what is in the best interests of the THSLL player(s) involved as THSLL Participants, then the outcomes will be fair and reasonable.

THSLL Rules Enforcement Governance Process

Mutual Non-Disclosure Agreement

It is understood and agreed to that the parties to this Agreement, hereinafter referred to as the THSLL Participants, each would like to provide the other with certain information that is to be considered confidential in the THSLL Rules Enforcement Governance Process as outlined in section 22 of the then current THSLL Rulebook, hereinafter referred to as the governance process. To ensure the protection of such information and the THSLL Participants in consideration of the agreement to exchange said information, the THSLL Participants agree as follows:

1. The confidential information to be disclosed under this Agreement ("Confidential Information") can be described as follows and includes:
 - Firsthand information relating to actions or lack of actions by a THSLL Participant(s) (THSLL Member School Program, Member School Team, parents, players) related to suspected rules violations of THSLL rules as defined in the then current THSLL Rulebook, regardless of whether such information is designated as "Confidential Information" at the time of its disclosure.
 - THSLL Coordinator, THSLL Board, and Commissioner provided communications, including timelines, plans, and written THSLL Participant communications throughout the governance process.
 - In addition to the above, Confidential Information shall also include, and the THSLL Participants shall have a duty to protect, other confidential and/or sensitive information which is (a) disclosed as such in writing and marked as confidential (or with other similar designation) at the time of disclosure; and/or (b) disclosed by the THSLL Participants in any other manner and identified as confidential at the time of disclosure and is also summarized and designated as confidential in a written memorandum delivered within forty-five (45) days of the disclosure.

2. The THSLL Participants shall use the Confidential Information only for the purposes of the governance process.
3. The THSLL Participants shall limit disclosure of Confidential Information to the THSLL Coordinator in charge of the governance process and shall not disclose Confidential Information to any third party (whether an individual, corporation, or other entity) without prior written consent. The THSLL Participants shall satisfy their obligations under this paragraph if they take affirmative measures to ensure compliance with these confidentiality obligations by other THSLL Participants who are permitted access to or use of the Confidential Information.
4. This Agreement imposes no obligation upon the THSLL Participants with respect to any Confidential Information (a) that was possessed before receipt; (b) is or becomes a matter of public knowledge through no fault of receiving THSLL Participants; (c) is rightfully received from a third party not owing a duty of confidentiality; (d) is disclosed without a duty of confidentiality to a third party by, or with the authorization of the disclosing THSLL Participant; or (e) is independently developed.
5. The THSLL Participants warrant that they have the right to make the disclosures under this Agreement.
6. This Agreement shall not be construed as creating, conveying, transferring, granting or conferring upon either THSLL Participant any rights, license or authority in or to the information exchanged, except the limited right to use Confidential Information specified in paragraph 2. Furthermore and specifically, no license or conveyance of any intellectual property rights is granted or implied by this Agreement.
7. Neither THSLL Participant has an obligation under this Agreement to purchase any service, goods, or intangibles from the other THSLL Participant. Furthermore, both THSLL Participants acknowledge and agree that the exchange of information under this Agreement shall not commit or bind either THSLL Participant to any present or future contractual relationship (except as specifically stated herein), nor shall the exchange of information be construed as an inducement to act or not to act in any given manner.
8. Neither THSLL Participant shall be liable to the other in any manner whatsoever for any decisions, obligations, costs or expenses incurred, changes in practices, plans, organization, products, services, or otherwise, based on either THSLL Participant's decision to use or rely on any information exchanged under this Agreement.
9. If there is a breach or threatened breach of any provision of this Agreement, it is agreed and understood that the non-breaching THSLL Participant shall have no adequate remedy in money or other damages and accordingly shall be entitled to injunctive relief; provided however, no specification in this Agreement of any particular remedy shall be construed as a waiver or prohibition of any other remedies in the event of a breach or threatened breach of this Agreement.
10. This Agreement states the entire agreement between the THSLL Participants concerning the disclosure of Confidential Information and supersedes any prior agreements, understandings, or representations with respect thereto. Any addition or modification to this Agreement must be made in writing and signed by both THSLL Participants. This Agreement is made under and shall be construed according to the laws of the State of Texas, U.S.A. In the event that this agreement, is breached, any and all disputes must be settled in a court of competent jurisdiction in the State of Texas, U.S.A.
11. If any of the provisions of this Agreement are found to be unenforceable, the remainder shall be enforced as fully as possible and the unenforceable provision(s) shall be deemed modified to the limited extent required to permit enforcement of the Agreement as a whole.

WHEREFORE, the THSLL Participants acknowledge that they have read and understand this Agreement and voluntarily accept the duties and obligations set forth herein.

Recipient of Confidential Information:

Name (Print or Type):

Company:

Address:

Signature:

Discloser of Confidential Information:

Name (Print of Type):

Company:

Address:

Signature:

Title:

City, State & Zip:

Date:

Title:

City, State & Zip:

Date:

Appendix A - 2017 THSLL BOYS RULE WAIVERS

The current valid NCAA Lacrosse Rulebook will be used unless a specific modification is listed on this sheet. Parentheses indicate the section of the NCAA Rulebook, which pertains to the modification.

PLAYING FIELD (1-2) ~ Home Teams will make all possible efforts to provide a field which meets NCAA specifications as outlined in the section entitled "The Field", (Rule 1-2 through 1-15). Local conditions may require field size modifications.

Required field markings shall be the responsibility of the home team and every possible effort should be made to mark the field accordingly. Acceptable markings can be in the form of but not limited to paint, chalk, washable paint/chalk, tape, or any other removable material (ex: portable crease). It is the responsibility of the home team to check with the field property owner on acceptable markings and guidelines.

No penalty shall be assessed for a home team unable to mark a turf playing field, as long as there are existing football markings, due to school or city guidelines. Evidence of the hardship should be sent to the THSLL Board of Directors to be recorded.

Additionally, it is the responsibility of the home team to notify the visiting team of any known field issues (for example, lack of lines or using football sidelines for the width or using tape) within three days of the scheduled game date. Both coaches must agree on the field before the game can be played.

If the visiting coach does not agree on the modified playing surface, it is the responsibility of both the home and away coaches to come to a compromise, reschedule, or swap home/away status with the home team being responsible for official and venue expenses. Failure to do so should be reported in the game report to the local coordinator for escalation.

Prior to the start of any contest, the Home Team Site Administrator, shall be identified, in person, to the Officials as part of field preparations. THSLL games will not be played without a licensed athletic trainer, team physician or health care professional (hereinafter referred to as "Trainer") on the sidelines.

The delayed start of a game due to the field not being ready for play, at the contracted starting time or failure of the home Team Site Administrator to introduce himself/herself to the Officials, will subject the home Team to a technical foul (6-6q) with the in-home serving 30 seconds and the ball awarded to the visitor to start the game.

Prior to the start of any contest, the Home Team Trainer shall be identified in person to the Table personnel. If the home Team fails to provide a Trainer due to extenuating circumstances, the game may be rescheduled. If the home Team trainer is delayed, this will result in a 30 second conduct foul, delay of game. If the home Team trainer is not present within 5 minutes of game start, the Home Team will be assessed an additional 30 second conduct foul. If the Trainer is not present within 15 minutes the game may be cancelled and the Home Team is responsible for payment of the officials. If the game is rescheduled, the conduct penalties will carry over to the rescheduled game.

The Team benches and table are to be on the opposite side of the field from the spectators. If the home Team does not move the spectators or team benches to comply with this rule in a reasonable time (as determined by the officials), the home Team receives a non-releasable 3 minute penalty at the start of the game to be served by the in-home player

GOALS & NETS (1-3 & 1-5) ~ The goals & nets at game sites shall be legal as they are, regardless if they comply with NCAA rules. The NCAA rules as to the color, size and type of pipe shall not apply; however, the home Team should make every effort to comply with the NCAA rules & specifications

LIMIT LINES, SPECTATOR & MEDIA RESTRICTIONS (1-14) ~ Limit lines are not required, however, spectators and media are not allowed behind the end lines or immediately behind the bench or table areas.

PERSONAL EQUIPMENT (1-21) ~ Gloves may vary in color. Baseball shoes (metal / hard plastic cleats) are not permitted.

LENGTH OF GAME (3-1) ~ The regulation playing time of a game shall be 48 minutes, divided into (4) 12 minute periods, JV games are (4) 10 minute periods.

TEAM SIDELINE POLICY ~ The field and all limit lines should be marked in accordance with the NCAA rulebook. All spectators shall be on the opposite side of the field from the team benches. The team box should contain a maximum of 4 coaches in the coaching box in front of the players. 1 equipment manager and 1 team trainer may be on the sidelines behind the players. Only players in uniform may be on the sidelines, non-participating players must wear game jerseys. 1 equipment manager and 1 team trainer may be on the team side, but not in the team box.

The score table shall not contain more than 5-people, including 3 from the home Team and 2 from the visitors' team. The home Team is the official scorekeeper, spotter, game timer, and penalty timer at the score table. The visiting team has a scorekeeper and assistant at the score table. The home Team site administrator has full access to the facility and should have communication with the score table.

It is the responsibility of the home Team and home Team site administrator to manage this policy. The home Team and away Team site administrator must check in with the score table and officials and wear the site administrator identifying badge. It is at the discretion of the officials to assess any game-time penalties resulting from this policy.

GAME BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS ~ If the game is stopped by officials for improper behavior on the field or in the stands, the officials will ask the on-site administrator or head coach to control or eject the offending fan from the premises. If the fan is not controlled, or does not leave the premises, the game will be stopped and the offending team will lose the game.

If player (s) is ejected from a THSLL, the player must leave the site of the THSLL game. The player may not remain on the sideline or in the stands. It is up to the Head Coach to comply with these rules or his team will forfeit the game. (The team of the ejected player is responsible for supervising that player when needed.)

If a player receives two of the same US Lacrosse Section 11 penalties in a game, or Fouls Out due to accumulation of five personal foul penalty minutes, the player will be automatically ejected from the current THSLL game, and suspended from the next THSLL game.

If a player or coach receives 2 unsportsmanlike penalties in a game, the player or coach is automatically ejected from the current game and suspended from the next League game

If a personal foul as per Section 11 occurs at the end of the last game of the THSLL season, as defined in Appendix J, so that the player incurring the foul does not serve penalty time, the penalty will carry over to the Team's next THSLL season game. If the player has graduated, the in-home shall serve the penalty.

A suspended individual cannot be in the team's bench area, anywhere on the sideline or anywhere in the spectator area.

An ejected individual cannot be in the team's bench area, anywhere on the sideline, and must be supervised by the Member Team Program's leadership.

LEAGUE ACTIONS

Section 11 penalties:

- When a player receives one Section 11 penalty in one game: he will be reported to the THSLL Coordinator and be subject to a potential warning from THSLL after a report is made to the THSLL Board of Directors or its designee.
- When a player receives two of the same Section 11 penalties in one game, his coach and THSLL Member School President/Athletic Director will be required to meet with the Coordinator. The THSLL Coordinator will discuss the circumstances with the game officials. The Coach may miss the next scheduled THSLL game as defined as a game on the THSLL schedule at the time the incident occurred and cannot be subsequently scheduled afterwards.

- When a player has an accumulation of four of the same Section 11 penalties in THSLL games, or a coach has an accumulation of four Unsportsmanlike Conduct in THSLL games, he will serve an automatic one game suspension for the next scheduled THSLL game as defined as a game on the THSLL schedule at the time of the suspension, and that game cannot be subsequently scheduled afterwards. The THSLL Coordinator may suspend a coach who has been ejected from a THSLL game pending an expedient review .
- There is an automatic reset after the above THSLL game suspension, however if a player or coach is guilty a second time of the accumulation of four penalties as defined above, he will receive an automatic two game suspension, and can be cause for expulsion.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Sportsmanship rule for all teams participating in a regular season DII or DIII game. At any time during the game there is a 15 goal or more differential there will be a mandatory running clock for the remainder of the game. Traditional penalty time will apply and be kept with stop/starts. The clock will be stopped for official time outs or team time outs.

After the running clock has started, at any time during the remainder of the game the score differential falls below 15 goals, the running clock will still be in effect.

This rule applies to all DII or DIII district or non-district regular season games only. Post-season games and games with DI teams are exempt from this rule.

Under no circumstances shall this rule be waived by coaches or officials.

OFFICIALS

The NCAA requirement of three officials is waived for the 2017 season for JV games. If for some reason the NCAA requirement of three officials is not met by SWLOA, the DI, DII or DIII game is still an official game. Any game officiated by only one official must be agreed upon by both coaches.

Game Clock

The requirement for all Division 1 programs to have a visible shot clocks on display for the 2017 season is waived.

Appendix B – Proxy Voting Form

(District)

To State Administrator, THSLL

I, _____ hereby give _____

with Program _____ the authority to vote as my proxy at the THSLL meeting on

_____ in _____, TX on all matters that require a vote, subject to my positions as stated below.

Absent Head Coach/Club President/Athletic Director:

Signed: _____

Team: _____

Title: _____

Attendee to vote as proxy:

Name: _____

Signed: _____

School: _____

Voting Item #1 Position: _____

Voting Item #2 Position: _____

Voting Item #3 Position: _____

Voting Item #4 Position: _____

Voting Item #5 Position: _____

Appendix C – THSLL 2016-2017 Season Timetable

Member School Program Updated Contacts to THSLL	October 1,2016
SWLOA invoices issued to Member Teams	November 1, 2016
THSLL invoices issued to Member Teams	November 1, 2016
Super Regionals and State Hosts Selected	December 1, 2016
THSLL and SWLOA dues to THSLL Treasurer	December 1,2016
Game schedules submitted	December 23,2016
Last day to submit eligibility waivers for players or Team	January 11,2017
Team Information due: Valid/Up to Date Rosters, Emergency Plan, Proof of Insurance , Approved Eligibility Waivers	January 18, 2017
Beginning of THSLL season. Games may not be played before	January 20,2017
End of THSLL season. Games must be completed by end of day	April 28, 2017
Nominations and supporting documentation for Coach of the Year, Asst. Coach of the Year, Person of the Year	April 28, 2017
Person of The Year Executive Committee Meeting	May 1, 2017
All-State, All-District, Honorable Mention posted Wednesday 10 p.m.	May 3, 2017
Division I and Division II District Seedings	Wednesday, May 3, 2017
All-State/All District Selection, District Wrap-up, Team Photo and Rosters	Wednesday, May 3, 2017
All-State, All-District, Honorable Mention posted Wednesday 10 p.m.	Wednesday, May 3, 2017
AA/AAA nominations and supporting information	May 3,2017
DI and DII Super Regional Tournaments: in Austin, Houston, and San Antonio	May 6, 7 2017
DI, DII State Championships	May 13, 14 2017 in Houston
THSLL Executive Board Meeting	July, 2017
2016 Season Rule Change Proposal Due	August 1,2017
State Meetings , District Locations– Review requirements for 2017 THSLL season	September 2017

THSLL Required Information Penalty Matrix

Required Information	On Time Date	Penalty
SWLOA Dues	December 1	\$25 per week per Team (V or JV) until December 31, if still not paid games will not be assigned
THSLL Dues	December 1	\$25 per week per Team (V or if still not paid the Team is disqualified
Initial Roster	January 20	\$100 per Team (V or JV)
Valid / Up-To-Date Roster	First District Game	Any District game played without a Valid / Up-To-Date Roster will be Forfeited and \$100 per program.
Emergency Plan	January 20	No League game may be played without an Emergency Plan
Proof of Insurance	January 20	\$100 per Program; no League game may be played without a Valid Proof of Insurance
Coaches US Lacrosse #	January 20	Required for participation for US Lacrosse awards (Coach of the Year, Asst. Coach of the Year, All American, Academic All American)